

18 December 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Exploitation of Soviet Scientific and Technical Literature

1. In response to your request we have made a study of what is being done by the United States to exploit Soviet scientific and technical literature. The attached study is particularly focused on the allegations made in the press, especially by Drew Pearson in a column dated 10 November 1957 and by John W. Finney in an article in the New York Times dated 24 November 1957, that this was a neglected area for getting information on the Soviet Union. Our findings completely refute these allegations.

2. While the study is classified CONFIDENTIAL, none of its findings are of a highly classified nature, and it may well be that you might wish to use it to correct the misinformation which has appeared in the press. The only possible reservation to public dissemination of this information is that it might possibly inhibit the Soviet Union from releasing its periodicals to the outside world. On the other hand, the Soviet Union itself is engaged in a very large document exploitation program and thus is under no delusion concerning what we are doing.

LYMAN B. KIRKPATRICK
Inspector General

Attachment

EXPLOITATION OF SOVIET SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL LITERATURE

1. Press Allegations.

a. On 10 November 1957 Drew Pearson made the following allegations:

(1) Only a few Soviet scientific and technical periodicals are translated on a hit or miss basis.

(2) Truck loads of these documents are piled up in the Library of Congress unsorted and untranslated.

(3) It is implied that these documents are not properly catalogued by subject matter.

(4) He states that the Library of Congress only occasionally translates the documents.

(5) He states that the mass of the documents is never read by American experts.

(6) He states that CIA does not have the scientists to evaluate the material in the documents.

(7) He states that Russia publishes 25,000 technical journals of which less than 1,000 are considered important and 80 journals contain most of Russia's research.

b. On 24 November 1957 the New York Times published an article with by-line by John W. Finney and date lined Washington which made the following allegations:

(1) That about 20,000 Soviet scientific and technical journals are received by the Government each year but that only a fraction are translated.

(2) That there are an estimated 1,200 Soviet scientific journals of which 200 are of major importance and only 30 are translated.

(3) That in the June and July issues of RADIO, a Soviet technical journal, the radio frequencies of the Soviet satellites were described but that this was not acknowledged by the intelligence community.

(4) That the All-Union Institute of Scientific and Technical Information in Moscow has a permanent staff of 2,300 translators and abstractors and a part time staff of 20,000, and that it publishes 13 abstract journals that annually contain about 400,000 abstracts of articles and books published in 80 different countries.

2. The Actual Facts.

a. The United States Government presently receives approximately 475 Soviet journals and periodicals which contain some scientific and technical information. Of these, 325 are primarily scientific and technical in nature. Another 75 have small scientific and technical sections. The last 75 are primarily bibliographic in nature. There may be another 100 Soviet scientific and technical journals which are not at the present available to the outside world.

b. Soviet scientific and technical journals are obtained by a variety of methods, including purchase from such import organizations as [] STAT [] and also through the Publications Procurement Officer in the Embassy in Moscow. The CIA gets one copy of every available Soviet periodical. This totalled 1,011 last year (including recurrent issues of the same publication) and cost \$15,657.00. In addition, the Publications Procurement Officer obtained 6,447 books in Moscow at a cost of \$10,120.00. About half of these had information in the field of science and technology.

c. The Library of Congress publishes a "Monthly List of Russian Accessions." This costs \$337,000 a year and is circulated in full by CIA. Perhaps as much as 50% of the Russian Accessions in some way bear on scientific and technical information. In addition, the Library of Congress maintains a Union Catalogue of all Soviet publications obtained by it and by all principal libraries in the United States.

25X1

d. CIA issues a biweekly Scientific Information Report which totalled 10,000 pages last year and contained an abstract of all Soviet scientific and technical articles.

e. Also, the Office of Scientific Intelligence, CIA, directly receives 169 Soviet scientific and technical publications at a cost of \$3,466 a year for the direct use of their staff members. While it is acknowledged that all of the OSI professionals are not sufficiently fluent in Russian to personally exploit these documents, it nevertheless gives them direct access to the material and an added check on requirements for translations.

X1

STA

g. While it is true that the Library of Congress does not translate Soviet scientific and technical literature, this is because by agreement this function was transferred to the John Crerar Library in Chicago which acts as the focal point for the Special Libraries Association (composed of representatives of commercial and industrial organizations and academies) as a clearing house for translations of Soviet literature.

h. The National Science Foundation annually spends approximately \$107,000 to translate Russian scientific works, accomplishing this in many instances by grants to professional societies to get complete translations of certain journals.

i. The Office of Technical Services of the Department of Commerce also indexes and abstracts technical reports. This is primarily a service for United States business organizations. There are now plans to expand this

j. There are approximately 29 commercial abstracting services, including such important ones as chemical abstracts, which abstract documents in special fields.

k. Wright Field translates 50 periodicals from cover to cover and expects to expand this to 130. In addition, major translation outfits translate about 20,000 pages a year, including 25 periodicals from cover to cover, and other Government agencies translate about another 20,000 pages.

3. In summary.

a. The U.S. Government translates between 65,000 to 70,000 pages a year of Soviet scientific and technical literature. Non-governmental

translations account for another 5,000 pages a year.

b. 90% of CIA translations are made available to industry and the academic world through copies sent to the translations center at the John Crerar Library.

C. TOP AND BOTTOM

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	MR. [REDACTED]	GR	
2	DCI	[REDACTED]	
3	E/R	WBM 2/3	
4			
5			
6			

ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE

Remarks:

This is the document it mentioned that would be useful for the 3 Feb speech.

It's all boiled down into 3 sentences in paragraphs 3a & 3b. of the attachment.

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
[REDACTED]	22 Jan

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

oved For Release 2003/06/26 : CIA-RDP80B01676R00032001600093

FORM NO. 237
1 APR 55

Replaces Form 30-4
which may be used.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1955-O-342531